

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 02517 271546Z

44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /052 W

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R 271527Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 561

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2517

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SL, ET

SUBJ: STEVENS APPROACH TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES

RE SAFETY OF EMPEROR

REF: FREETOWN 2424

1. LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 23 PUBLICIZED RECENT UNDATED EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN PRESIDENT STEVENS AND ETHIOPIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES CONCERNING SAFETY OF EMPEROR.

2. QUOTED EXCERPTS FROM STEVENS MESSAGE EXPRESSED ANXIETY OVER EMPEROR'S WELFARE, CITED HIS "COURAGEOUS STAND" 40 YEARS AGO FRO AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE, AND ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE "WHO CAME TO LOVE" EMPEROR DURING HIS VISIT TO SL AND CITING OAU CONNECTION, IMPLORED ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES TO TREAT EMPEROR HUMANELY AND SPARE HIS LIFE.

3. REPLY FROM BRIGGEN TEFERRI BENTI, CHAIRMAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, REPORTEDLY STATED ALL NECESSARY MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE EMPEROR'S SAFETY AND SECURITY AND THAT EXECUTION OF EMPEROR WAS NEVER CONTEMPLATED.

4. COMMENT: FACT THAT GOSL TOOK INITIATIVE OF THIS TYPE
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RATHER UNUSUAL, ALTHOUGH EMPEROR HAS BEEN POPULAR FIGURE HERE

AND THERE HAD BEEN QUITE CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
EMPEROR AND STEVENS. WHILE THERE NO EVIDENCE HERE TO
SUPPORT THESIS, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT STEVENS MESSAGE MIGHT
BE RESULT OF CONSULTATION AMONG NUMBER OF OAU STATES WHICH
MAY HAVE CHOSEN GOSL TO MAKE AN APPROACH FOR THESE SPECIFIC
REASONS.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAFETY, EXECUTIONS, EMPEROR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974FREETO02517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740375-1103
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974129/aaaaagut.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 FREETOWN 2424
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STEVENS APPROACH TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES RE SAFETY OF EMPEROR
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SL, ET, (HAILE SELASSIE I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005